

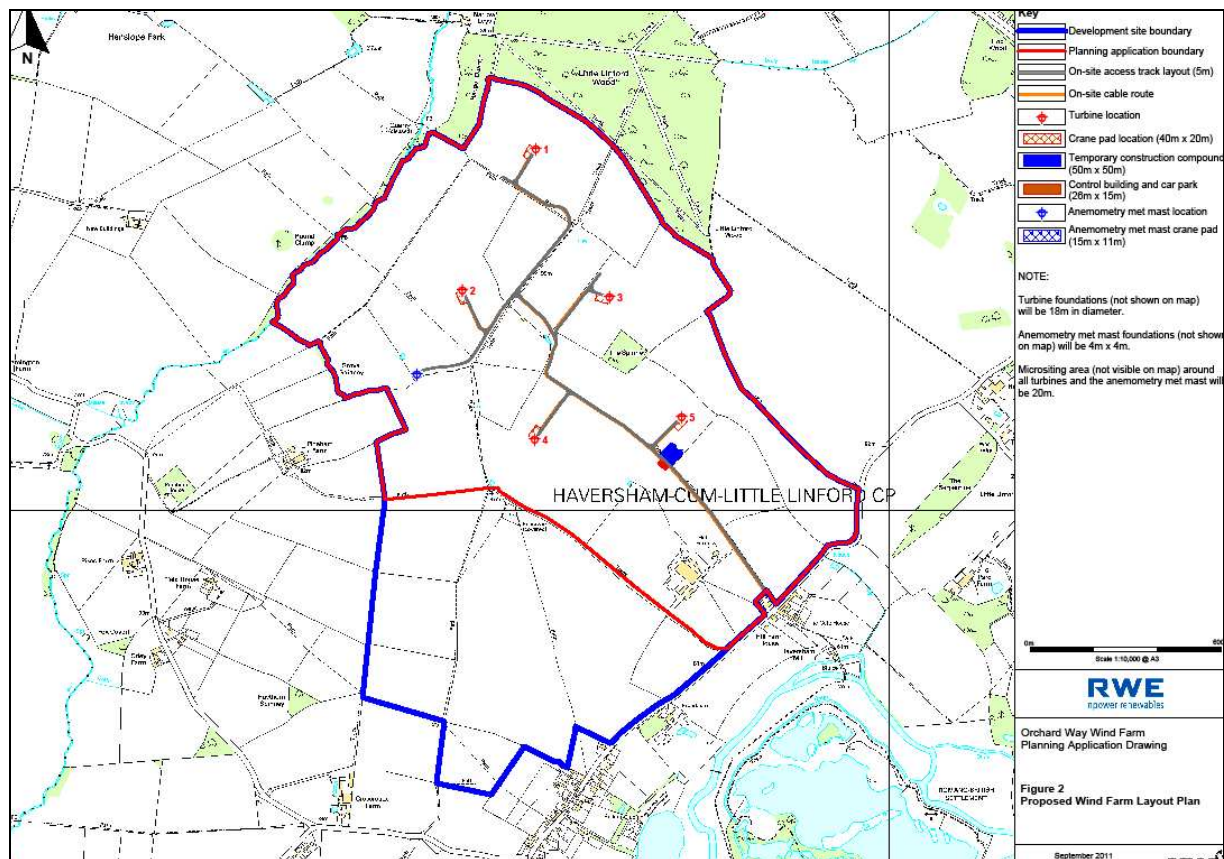
Haversham Wind Farm Planning Briefing

PLANNING REFERENCE NO: 11/02028/FULEIS

A wind farm development comprising of the erection of five wind turbines up to 127m in height (blade tip), and associated infrastructure including access tracks, on-site control building, cabling, construction compound, crane hard standings and an 80m high anemometry mast (RWE Npower Renewables Ltd).

Introduction

This briefing has been prepared to give an overview of the above proposal at Hill Farm, Haversham, referred to as Orchard Way by the developer. Direct quotes from the Planning Application or Environmental Impact Assessment are shown "in quotes".



Location of the proposed site at Hill Farm Haversham, showing turbine positions

Key facts and figures

- Five turbines – 127m (417ft) high (almost height of London Eye)
- 3.5km of access roads, 5 concrete bases 18m diameter and 5 crane pads 40x 20m
- An 80m anemometry mast, a control building 12m x 13m plus car park
- 100m from Little Linford Wood and just 50m from The Spinney – from blade tips
- 1.4km from Linford Lakes
- 2.9km from Hanslope Church
- 130m from nearest bridleway

Visual Impact

- The development site has a "*comparative elevation above the lower lying shallow valleys in its vicinity*".
- At 700ft above sea level turbines would be visible across Milton Keynes.
- Horse riding, walking, cycling, sailing, fishing, bird-watching are just some of the rural amenities enjoyed by MK residents and visitors to the area.
- The proposed site is adjacent to an Area of Attractive Landscape.
- The proposed wind farm would adversely impact the peace and enjoyment of the planned Country Park at Stantonbury, Linford Lakes and Hanson Environmental Study Centre.

Heritage

- Old Haversham has several Grade 1 and 2* buildings, including the 12th century St Mary's church just 1.4km away
- At 127m, turbines would be 2.3 times higher than Bucks landmark St James the Great Church in Hanslope which is 55m tall.
- The turbines are sited between two scheduled monuments and close to the registered park and gardens of Tyringham Hall (2.75 km) and Gayhurst Court (1.8km), affecting the settings of these important heritage sites.
- The site itself is known to be an important archaeological site, argued to house a large Roman settlement which has never been fully investigated.

Cumulative Impact

- The seven turbines at Petsoe End can clearly be seen from the proposed Haversham site and a wide surrounding area.
- There are also two proposals (currently in the planning process) to site 15 turbines near Stoke Goldington and 12 turbines at Nun Wood.
- In the area between Milton Keynes, Watford Gap and Kettering there are at least 20 known wind farm proposals for a total of 159 turbines.
- There is a high risk of wind turbines in every direction for MK residents.

Bridleways and Footpaths

- 16 public rights of way will experience "*significant effects*".
- All PRoW on the site will be closed during 12 months+ construction period.
- Several bridleways and footpaths cross the site all within 130m to 220m of at least one turbine.
- Two bridleways – Swan's Way and Midshire's Way – are national routes, which the British Horse Society recommends should be at least 4 x turbine height away for safety (508m in this case).

Wild Life Impact

- Dormice – a protected species – live on the site and have been re-introduced to adjacent Little Linford Wood in recent years.
- Red Kites – a bird which is particularly susceptible to striking turbine blades – have recently reappeared in this area.
- The nearest turbine would be within 1.4km of Linford Lakes home of the Hanson Environmental Study Centre. Water fowl fly over the site on a regular basis.
- Little Linford Wood is the habitat for several rare bats – all protected species.

Housing

- 93 homes are within 1.5km – most of new Haversham will be just outside this.
- Several properties are within 700 m of at least one turbine.
- The site is only 2.5km from the edge of Milton Keynes city.

Traffic Disruption

- The developer plans to route all heavy goods, including the turbines, from Junction 14 of M1, along A509 via Chicheley Hill into Sherington Road, before turning right on B526. Then along the Gayhurst to Haversham Road for 3.5km before turning right onto the site at Hill Farm.
- Petsoe End turbines took a similar route from M1 to A509 and got jammed at the Tickford Roundabout, halting a blue light ambulance for several minutes.

Noise

- The turbines would create noise by day and night, reducing the peaceful character of the area to the detriment of local residents and visitors.
- Figures collated in April 2010 by the Renewable Energy Foundation showed 46 out of 217 wind farms in the UK had generated noise complaints.
- There are current uncertainties about the distance needed to mitigate the impact of AM noise (the swish or thump which may be felt rather than heard) due to a recent legal ruling.

Local Feeling

- 75.9% voted NO to the wind farm proposal in a parish poll called by Haversham cum Little Linford Parish Council on 18 October 2011

Object

- The application could be heard as early as 15 December 2011.
- If you would like a representative of the Stop Haversham Wind Farm Action Group to attend a meeting or answer any questions please email info@stophavershamwindfarm.org.uk or call 01908 410250 and ask for Pam.

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Planning reference: 11/02028/FULEIS

To find full details go to Milton Keynes website (Planning Public Access)